US6114358

L5 ANSWER 7 OF 18 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2003 ACS on STN

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1995:590422 CAPLUS

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 123:55807

TITLE: Two step synthesis of substituted indolo[1,2-

a]quinoxalin-6-ones

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SOURCE: Synthetic Communications (1995), 25(14), 2165-83

CODEN: SYNCAV; ISSN: 0039-7911

PUBLISHER: Dekker
DOCUMENT TYPE: Journal
LANGUAGE: English

OTHER SOURCE(S): CASREACT 123:55807

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The reaction of indole-2-carboxylates with 2-fluoronitrobenzenes in 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone contg. NaH affords the 1-(2-nitrophenyl) indole-2-carboxylates I [R = Et, Me; R1 = H, 5-Cl, 5-F, 5-OMe, 5,6-(OMe)2, 4-OCH2Ph, 5-OCH2Ph; R2 = H, 4-F, 4-Me, 4-CF3, 5-F]. These compds. are reduced with iron in acetic acid to afford the indolo[1,2-a]quinoxalin-6(5H)-ones II.